

Oxford Democrat.

No. 40, Vol. 4, New Series.

Paris, Maine, Tuesday, February 11, 1845.

Old Series, No. 50, Vol. 13.

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY, BY

G. W. ELLIS,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS:—One Dollar and Fifty Cents in advance. Advertisements inserted on reasonable terms:—the Proprietor not being accountable for any error beyond the amount charged for the advertisement. A reasonable deduction will be made for cash in advance.

Book and Job Printing
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POPULAR TALES.

[From Blackwood's Magazine.]

THE STOLEN CHILD.

A THRILLING STORY.

It was towards the commencement of the month of December, 1825, that I was going down the Mississippi in the steamboat Feliciana. We had arrived in the neighborhood of Hopfield, Hampstead county, when one of our paddles struck a sawyer, and was broken to pieces. We were obliged in consequence to cast anchor before the town.

Hopfield is a small town on the west bank of the river, about six hundred miles from New Orleans, and five hundred below the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi. It consisted, at the time of which I speak, of about fifteen houses, two of which were taverns and shops of the usual kind found in such places—their stock in trade consisting of a cask or two of whiskey, a couple of dozen knives and forks, a few colored handkerchiefs, some earthenware, lead, powder and the like. Our party was composed of ten ladies, the same number of young men, and several elderly gentlemen. Nothing appears so desirable, during a long voyage in a river steamboat, as a stroll upon shore; and, as there was nothing to be done at Hopfield, the proposal of one of our number to take a ramble in the forest, was met with unqualified approbation by all the young men. We equipped ourselves each with a rifle, and a bottle of wine or brandy, to keep the vapors of the swamps out of our throats; the son of one of the tavern-keepers, who offered himself as a guide, was loaded with a mighty ham and a bag of biscuits, which we procured from the steamboat; and, thus provided, we sallied forth on our expedition, attended by the good wishes of the ladies, who accompanied us a few hundred yards into the wood, and then left us to pursue our march.

I have often had occasion to notice, that the first entrance into one of our vast American forests, is apt to reduce the greatest talker to silence. In the present instance I found the truth of this remark fully confirmed. Whether it was the subdued half light of the luxuriant wilderness through which we were passing, the solemn stillness, only broken by the rustling of the dead leaves under our feet, or the colossal dimensions of the mighty trees, that rose like so many giants around us, that wrought upon the imagination, I cannot say; but it is certain that my companions, who were mostly from the Northern States, and had never before been beyond Albany or the Saratoga Springs, became at once silent, and almost sad. The leaves of the cotton-tree, that giant of the South-Western forests, had already assumed the tawny hues of latter Autumn; only here and there a streak of sunbeam, breaking through the canopy of branches that spread over our heads, brought out the last tints of green now fast fading away, and threw a strange sparkling ray, a bar of light, across our path. Here was a magnolia with its snow-white blossoms, or a catalpa with its long cucumber shaped fruit, amongst which the bright-hued red birds and paroquets glanced and flitted.

We walked for some time through the forest, amused more than once by the proceedings of two young clerks from Boston, who saw a wild animal in every thicket, and repeatedly leveled their guns at some bear or panther, which turned out to be neither more nor less than a bush or tree-stump. They pestered our guide with all sorts of simple questions, which he, with a true backwoodsman's indifference, left for the most part unanswered. After about an hour, we found ourselves on the borders of a long and tolerably wide swamp, formed by the overflowings of the river, and which stretched for some five miles from north to south, with a broad patch of clear bright-green water in the centre. The western bank was covered with a thick growth of palmettoes, the favorite cover of deer, bears, and even panthers; and this cover we resolved to beat. We divided ourselves into two parties, the first of which, consisting of the New Englanders, and accompanied by the guide, was to go round the northern extremity of the swamp, while we were to take a southerly direction, and both to meet behind the marsh, on a certain path which led through a thicket of wild plum-trees and nectars. Our guide's instructions were not the clearest, and the landmark's he gave us were only intelligible to a thorough backwoodsman; but as too many questions would probably have puzzled him, without making matters clearer to us, we set off, trusting to our eyes and ears, and to the pocket-compasses with which several of us were provided.

After another hour's walk, during which we had seen nothing but wild pigeons and squirrels, and a few meek snakes warming themselves in the sun-beams, which latter, on our approach, drew hastily back under the heaps of dry leaves, we arrived at the northern extremity of the swamp.

*The local name for large tree-trunks which get partially buried in the mud, and end sticking up just below the surface of the water. They cause frequent accidents to the steamboats on the Mississippi.

Proceeding a short distance westward, we then took a northerly direction, along the edge of the palmetto field, with the marsh upon our right hand. It was a sort of cane-brake we were passing through, firm footing, and with grass up to our knees; the shore of the swamp or lake was overgrown with lofty cedars, shooting out of water four or five feet deep, which reflected their circular crowns. The broad streak of water looked like a huge band of satin, and the slightest motion of the leaves was immediately perceptible in the mirror beneath them. From time to time, the least possible breeze rustled through the trees, and curled the water with a tiny ripple. The water itself was of the brightest emerald-green; and the forest of palmetto stems that grew along the edge, was reflected in it like myriads of swords and lances. In the small creeks and inlets, flocks of swans, pelicans, and wild geese, were sunning themselves, and pluming their feathers for their winter flight. They allowed us to come within a score of paces of them, and then flew away with a rushing, whirling noise.

We had been for some time plodding patiently along, when our attention was suddenly attracted by a slow but continued rustling amongst the palmettos. Something was evidently cautiously approaching us, but whether panther, stag or bear, we could not tell—probably the last. We gave a glance at our rifles, cocked them, and pressed a few paces forward amongst the canes; when suddenly a bound and a cracking noise, which grew rapidly more distant, warned us that the animal had taken the alarm. One of our companions, who had as yet never seen a bear-hunt, ran forward as fast as the palmettos would allow him, and was soon out of sight. Unfortunately we had no dogs, and after half an hour's fruitless beating about, during which we started another animal, within sight or shot of which we were unable to get, we became convinced that we should have to meet our friends empty-handed. It was now time to proceed to the place of rendezvous, on the further side of the palmetto field, which was about half a mile wide. The man who had gone after the bear, had rejoined us, and from him we learned that the brute was bordered on the western side by a dense thicket of wild-plum, apple and acacia trees, through which there was not the least sign of a path. On arriving there, we saw that his account was a correct one; and, to add to our difficulties, the nature of the ground in our front now changed, and the cane-brake sank down into a sort of swampy bottom, extending to the northern extremity of the lake. Our situation was an embarrassing one. Before us, an impassable swamp; to our right, water; to our left, an impenetrable thicket; and four hours of the eight that had been allotted to us already elapsed. There seemed nothing to be done but to retrace our steps; but, before doing so, we resolved to make a last effort to find a path. To this end we separated, taking different directions, and for nearly half an hour we wandered through the thicket, amongst bushes and brambles, tearing ourselves to no purpose. At last, when I for one was about to abandon the search in despair, a loud hurrah gave notice that the path was found. We were soon all grouped around the lucky discoverer; but to our considerable disappointment, instead of finding him at the entrance of the wished-for road, we beheld him gravely contemplating a cow, which was cropping the grass quite undisturbed by our approach. Nevertheless, this was no bad find, if we could only ascertain whether it was a stray cow that had wandered from its home, or a beast of regular habits that passed each night in its master's cow-house. An Ohioman solved the question, by pointing out that the animal had evidently been milked that morning; and as we were debating how we should induce him to proceed in the direction of its domicile, he settled that difficulty also, by firing his rifle so close to the beast's tail, that the bullet carried off a patch of hair, and grazed the skin. The cow gave a tremendous spring; and rushed through a thicket, as if a score of wolves had been at its heels. We followed, and the brute led us to a tolerably good path through the wilderness, which we had thought impenetrable. It was doubtless the path that was to place us to the appointed place of meeting; and we now slackened our pace, and followed the cow's trail more leisurely. We had proceeded about a mile, when a strong light in the distance made us aware that we were coming to a clearing; and on arriving at the place, we found several maize fields enclosed by hedges, and a log house, the smoking chimney of which bespoke the presence of inhabitants.

The dwelling was pleasantly situated on a gentle slope, roofed with clapboards, and having stables and other out-houses in its rear, such as one usually finds in backwood settlements of the more comfortable kind. Peach trees were trailed against the house, in front of which stood some groups of poplars. The whole place had a rural and agreeable aspect.

We were scarcely within the hedge that surrounded the domain, when a brace of bull-dogs rushed upon us with open jaws. We were keeping off the furious brutes with some difficulty, when a man came out of the barn, and, upon seeing us, again entered it. After a few moments, he appeared for a second time, in company with two negroes, who were leading by the horns the very same cow which we had so unceremoniously compelled to become our guide. We greeted the man with a 'good morning'; but he made no answer, merely gazing hard at us with a cold, sullen look. He was a tall, broad-shouldered, powerful man, with an expressive, but extraordinarily sad, gloomy, and almost repulsive countenance. There was a restless excitement of manner about him, which struck us at the very first glance.

'A fine morning,' said I, approaching the stranger.

No answer. The man was holding the cow by one horn, and staring at the tail, from which a drop or two of blood was falling.

'How far is it from here to Hopfield?' asked I.

'Far enough for you never to get there, if it is you who've been drivin' my cow,' was the threatening reply.

'And if we had driven your cow,' said I, 'you would surely not take it amiss? It was a mere accident.'

'Such accidents don't often happen. People don't shoot cows, if they haven't a mind to eat other folk's beef.'

'You do not suppose,' said the Ohioman, 'that we should wish to hurt your cow—we, who have no other intention but to shoot a few turkeys for the voyage. We are passengers by the Feliciana—one of our paddles is broken, and that is the reason that our boat is at anchor in front of Hopfield, and that we are here.'

This circumstantial explanation seemed to produce little effect on the backwoodsman. He made no reply. We walked towards the house and on stepping in, found a woman there, who scarcely looked at us, or seemed aware of our entrance. There was the same appearance of fixed grief upon her countenance, that we had remarked in the man; only with the difference, that the expression was less morose and fiercer, but on the other hand more mournful.

'Can we have something to eat?' said I to the woman.

'We don't keep a tavern,' was the answer.

'The other party cannot be far off,' said one of my companions. 'We will give them a sign of our whereabouts.' And so saying, he passed out at the door and walked a few paces in the direction of a cotton field.

'Stop!' cried the backwoodsman, suddenly, placing himself before me. 'Not a step further shall you go, till you satisfy me who you are, and where from.'

'Who and where from?' replied our comrade, a young doctor of medicine from Tennessee. 'That is what you nor any other man shall know who asks after such a fashion. If I am not mistaken we are in a free country.' And as he spoke he fired off his rifle.

The report of the piece was echoed so magnificently from the deep forests which surrounded the plantation that my other companions raised their guns to their shoulders, with the intention of firing also. 'I made them a sign in time to prevent it. Although there could hardly be any real danger to be apprehended, it appeared to me advisable to hold ourselves prepared for whatever might happen. The next moment a shot was heard—the answer to our signal.'

'Keep yourself quiet,' said I to the backwoodsman, 'our companions and their guide will soon be here. As to your cow, you can hardly have so little common sense as to suppose that five travellers would shoot a beast that must be perfectly useless to them.'

As I left off speaking, there emerged from the forest other detachment and the guide, the latter carrying two fat turkeys. He greeted the backwoodsman as an old acquaintance, but with a degree of sympathy and compassion in the tone of his salutation which contrasted strangely with his usual rough, dry manner.

'Well, Mr. Clarke,' said he, 'heard nothing yet? I am sorry for it—very sorry.'

The backwoodsman made no reply, but his rigid sturdy mien softened, and his eyes, as I thought glistened with moisture.

'Missus Clarke,' said our guide to the woman, who was standing at the house-door, 'these gentlemen here wish for a snack. They've plenty of every thing, if you'll be so good as to cook it.'

The woman stood without making any reply; the man was equally silent. There was a sort of stubborn, surly manner about them, which I had never witnessed in backwoods-people.

'Well,' said the doctor, 'we need expect nothing here. We are only losing time. Let us sit down on a tree-trunk, and eat our ham and biscuits.'

The guide made us a significant sign, and then stepping up to the woman, spoke to her in a low and urgent tone. She did not, however, utter a word.

'Missus,' said the doctor, 'something must have happened to you or your family, to put you so out of sorts. We are strangers, but we are not without feelings. Tell us what is wrong.—There may be means of helping you.'

The man looked up; the woman shook her head.

'What is it that troubles you?' said I, approaching her. 'Speak out. Help often comes when least expected.'

The woman made no answer, but stepped up to our guide, took a turkey and the ham from him and went into the house. We followed, sat down at the table, and produced our bottles. The backwoodsman placed glasses before us. We pressed him to join us, but he obstinately declined our invitation, and we at last became weary of wasting good words on him. Our party consisted as before mentioned, of ten persons; two bottles were soon emptied; and we were beginning to get somewhat merry whilst talking over our morning's ramble, when our host suddenly got up from his seat in the chimney corner, and approached the table.

'Gentlemen,' said he, 'you mustn't think me uncivil if I tell you plainly that I can have no more made in my house. It ain't a house to let in—that it ain't, by G—!' And having so spoken he resumed his seat, laid his head upon both hands, and relapsed into his previous state of gloomy reverie.

'We ask pardon,' said we; 'but really we had

no idea that our cheerfulness would annoy you. The man made no reply, and half an hour passed away in whisperings and conjectures. At the end of that time, a negro girl came in to spread the table for our meal.

After much entreaty, our host and hostess were prevailed on to sit down with us. The former took a glass of brandy, and emptied it at a draught. We filled it again; he drank it off, and it was again replenished. After the third glass, a deep sigh escaped him. The cordial had evidently revived him.

'Gentlemen,' said he, 'you will have thought me rough and stubborn enough, when I met you as you had been huntin' my cow; but I see, now who I have to do with. But may I be shot myself, if, whenever I find him, I don't send a bullet through his body; and I'll be warrant it shall hinder his stealin' any more children.'

'Steal children!' repeated I. 'Has any one of your negroes been stolen?'

'One of my niggers, man! My son, my only son! Her child!' continued he, pointing to his wife. 'Our boy, the only one remaining to us out of five, whom the fever carried off before our eyes. As bold and smart a boy as any in the back-woods! Here we sat ourselves down in the wilderness, worked day and night, went through toil and danger, hunger and thirst, heat and cold. And for what? Here we are alone, deserted, childless, and nothin' left for us but to pray and cry, curse and groan. No help; all in vain. I shall go out of my mind, I expect. If he were dead—if he were lyin' under the hillock yonder beside his brothers, I would say nothing. He gave, and He has a right to take away! But, Almighty God! And the man uttered a cry so frightful, so heart-rending, that the knives and forks fell from our hands, and a number of negro women and children came rushing in to see what was the matter. We gazed at him in silence.

'God only knows,' continued he, and his head sank upon his breast; then, suddenly starting up he drank off glass after glass of brandy, as fast as he could pour it out.

'And how and when did this horrible theft occur?' asked we.

'The woman can tell you about it,' was the answer.

The woman had left the table, and now sat sobbing and weeping upon the bed. It was really a heart-breaking scene. The doctor got up and led her to the table. We waited till she became more composed, anxiously expecting her account of this horrible calamity.

'It was four weeks yesterday,' she began; 'Mister Clarke was in the forest; I was in the fields, looking after the people, who were gathering the maize. I had been there some time, and by the sun it was already pretty near eleven; but it was as fine a morning as ever was seen on the Mississippi, and the niggers don't work well if their somebody to look after them—so I remained. At last it was time to get the people's dinner ready, and I left the field. I don't know what it was, but I had scarcely turned towards the house, when it seemed as if somebody called to me to run as fast as I could; a sort of fear and uneasiness came over me, and I run all the way to the house. When I got there I saw little Cesy, our black boy, sitting on the threshold, and playing all alone. I thought nothing of this, but went into the kitchen, without suspecting anything wrong. As I was turning about amongst the pots and kettles, I thought suddenly of my Douglas. I threw down what I had in my hand, and ran to the door. Cesy came to meet me: 'Missis,' said he, 'Douglas is gone.'

'Douglas is gone?' cried I. 'Where is he gone to, Cesy?'

'Don't know,' said Cesy; 'gone away with a man on horseback.'

'With a man on horseback?' said I. 'In God's name where can he be gone to? What does all this mean Cesy?'

'Don't know,' said Cesy.

'And who was the man? Did he go willingly?'

'No! he didn't go willingly!' said Cesy; 'but the man got off his horse, put Douglas upon it and then jumped up behind him and rode away.'

'And you don't know the man?'

'No, missis!'

'Think again, Cesy,' cried I; 'for God's sake remember. Don't you know the man?'

'No, said the child, 'I don't know him.'

'Didn't you see what he looked like? Was he black or white?'

'I don't know,' said Cesy, crying; 'he had a red flannel shirt over his face!'

'Was it neighbor Syms or Banks, or Medding, or Barnes?'

'No!' whined Henry.

'Gracious God!' cried I. 'What is this? What has become of my poor child? I ran backwards and forwards into the forest, through the fields. I called out. I looked everywhere. At last I ran to where the people were at work and fetched Cesy's mother. I thought she would be able to make him tell something more about my child. She ran to the house with me, promised him cakes, new clothes, every thing in the world; but he could tell nothing more than he had already told me. At last Mister Clarke came.'

Here the woman paused, and looked at her husband.

'When I came home,' continued the latter, 'the woman was nearly distracted; and I saw directly that some great misfortune had happened. But I should never have guessed what it really was. When she told me, I said to comfort her, that one of the neighbors must have taken the child away, though I didn't think it myself, for none of the neighbors would have loved themselves such a freedom with my only child. I shouldn't have thanked 'em for it if I can tell you. I called Cesy, and asked him again what the man was like: if he had a blue or a

black coat? He said it was blue. What sort of a horse? 'A brown one.' 'What road had he taken?' 'That road,' answered the boy, pointing to the swamp. I sent all my niggers, men women and children, round to the neighbors, to seek for the child, and tell them what had happened. I myself followed the path that the robber had taken and found hoof prints upon it. I tracked them to the creek but there I lost the trail. The man must have got into a boat, with his horse and the child, had perhaps crossed the Mississippi, or perhaps gone down the stream. Who could tell where he would land? It might be ten, twenty, fifty or a hundred miles lower down. I was terribly frightened, and I rode on to Hopfield.—There nothing had been seen or heard of my child; but all the men got on their horses to help me to find him. The neighbors came also, and we sought about for a whole day and night. No trace nor track was to be found. Nobody had seen either the child nor the man who had carried him off. We beat the woods for thirty miles round my house, crossed the Mississippi, went up as far as Memphis, and down to Helene and the Yazoo river; nothing was to be seen or heard.

'We came back as we went out, empty-handed and discouraged. When I got home, I found the whole country assembled at my house. Again we set out; again we searched the forest through; every hollow tree, every bush and thicket, was looked into. Of bears, stags and panthers, there were plenty, but no signs of my boy. On the sixth day I came home again; but my home was become hateful to me—everything vexed and disgusted me. My clothes and skin were torn off by the thorns and briars; my very bones ached; but I didn't feel it. It was nothing to what I suffered in my mind.'

On the second day after my return, I was lying heart and body sick in bed, when one of the neighbors came in, and told me that he had just seen, at Hopfield, a man from Mully county, who told him that a stranger had been seen on the road to New Madrid, whose description answered to that which Cesy had given of the child stealer. It was a man with a blue coat and a brown horse, and a child upon the saddle. I forgot my sickness and sore bones, bought a new horse—for I had ridden mine nearly to death—and set out directly, rode day and night, three hundred miles to New Madrid; and when I arrived there sure enough I found the man who had been described to me, and a child with him. But it was not my child! The man belonged to New Madrid, and had been on a journey with his son into Mully county.

'I don't know how I got home again. Some people found me near Hopfield, and brought me to my house. I had a fever, and was raving for ten days; and during that time the neighbors advertised the thing in all the papers in Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. We had ridden altogether thousands of miles, but it was no use. No!' continued he, with a deep groan; 'if my child had died of a fever, if he had fallen in with a bear or panther, or been killed, it would be bitter, bitter sorrow—he was my last child. But, merciful God—stolen! My son, my poor child stolen!'

And the man cried aloud, sprang from his seat, and wrung his hands and wept like an infant.—Even his wife had not shown such utter agony of grief.

'When I go to work,' continued he, after a pause, 'my little Douglas seems to stand before me, and my hands fall to my sides, as stiff and heavy as though they were lead. I look round, but no Douglas is there. When I go to bed, I put his bed beside mine, and call him, but no one answers. Sleeping or waking, my poor boy is always before me. Would to God I were dead! I have cursed and sworn, prayed and supplicated, wept and groaned, but all—all in vain! I have seen many persons suffering from distress of mind, but never did I meet with one whose sorrow was so violent and overpowering as that of this backwoodsman. We did our utmost to console him, and to inspire him with new hope, but he was inconsolable; his eyes were fixed, he had fallen into a sort of apathy, and I doubt if he even heard what was said to him.—We ourselves were so affected, that our words seemed to choke us. Time passed, however; it was impossible for us to remain any longer, nor could we have done any good by so doing. We shook the unfortunate couple by the hand, promised to do all in our power to learn something of the child's fate, and took our departure.'

It was six weeks from the time above referred to, that I found myself compelled by business to make a journey to Natchez. I had often thought of poor Clarke's misfortune, and, in conjunction with my friends, had done all in my power to discover the villain who had robbed him of his child. Hitherto, all our endeavors had been fruitless.—The news were circulated in every newspaper, were matter of conversation at every tea-table in the country; rewards were offered, researches made, but not the smallest trace of the boy or his stealer was to be found.

It was a bright January afternoon when I landed at Natchez. In company with some acquaintances, I was ascending the hill between the lower and upper town, when we heard an unusual noise and bustle; and on reaching the summit, we saw a crowd assembled before the door of Justice Bonner's house. Upon going to see what was the matter, we found the mob consisted of the better class of people in Natchez, both women and men, but especially the former. Every face wore an expression of interest and anxiety; and upon making inquiry, we learned that the child-stealer had been at length discovered; rather, that a man had been taken up on strong suspicion of having stolen Mr. Clarke's son of Hampstead county. I was heartily rejoiced at the news, and endeavored to press forward

through the throng, in hopes of hearing some particulars; but the crowd was so dense that it was impossible to get through. I stood there for nearly two hours, the concourse all the while increasing, none stirring from the place they occupied, while every adjacent window was filled with eager, anxious faces.

At last the door opened, and the prisoner, guarded by two constables, and followed by the sheriff, came out of the house, and took the direction of the town prison. "That is he!" whispered the women to one another, with pale faces and trembling voices, clapping their children tighter, as though fearful they would be snatched from them. The countenance of the culprit was the most repulsive I had ever seen—a mixture of brutal obstinacy and low cunning, with a sort of sneering, grinning expression. His small green eyes were fixed upon the ground; but as he passed through the lane opened by the crowd, he from time to time partially raised them, and threw sidelong and malicious glances at the bystanders. He was rather above the middle height, his complexion of a dirty grayish color, his cheeks hollow, his lips remarkably thick and coarse, his whole appearance in the highest degree wild and disgusting. His dress consisted of an old worn-out blue frock, trousers of the same color, a high-crowned shabby hat, and tattered shoes. The impression which his appearance made might be read in the pale faces of the spectators. They gazed after him with a sort of hopeless look as he walked away. "If this is the man who stole the child," murmured several, "there is no hope. The boy is lost! I extricated myself from the throng, and hastened to Justice Bonner, with whom I was acquainted, and who gave me the following particulars.

About four weeks after our excursion in the neighborhood of Hopefield, Clarke had received a letter, signed Thomas Tully, and stamped with the Natchez postmark. The contents were to the effect that his child was still living; that the writer of the letter knew where he was, and that if Mr. Clarke would enclose a fifty dollar bank note in his answer, he should receive further information. On receipt of the said sum, the writer said he would indicate a place to which Mr. Clarke might repair, unaccompanied, and there upon the payment of two hundred dollars more, the child should be delivered up.

Upon receiving this letter, the unfortunate father consulted with his friends and neighbors; and by their advice, he wrote immediately to the Post Master at Natchez, informing him of the circumstance, and requesting that the person who applied for his answer might be detained. Four days afterwards, a man came to the window of the Post Office, and inquired if there was any letter to the address of Thomas Tully. The Post Master pretended to be searching for the letter among a pile of others, and meanwhile a constable, who was in attendance, went round and captured the applicant. Upon the examination of the latter, it appeared that he was an Irishman, who had some time previously been hanging about Natchez, and had endeavored to establish a school there. As he, however, had been unable to give any satisfactory account of himself, of where he came from, or what he had been doing up to that time; and as his manner and appearance were moreover in the highest degree suspicious and repulsive, he had not succeeded in his plan, and few parents who sent their children to him had speedily withdrawn them. He was known at Natchez by the name of Thomas Tully, nor did he deny that that was his name, or that he had sent the letter, which was written in a practised schoolmaster-like hand. It was further elicited that he was perfectly acquainted with the paths and roads between Natchez and Hopefield, and in the neighborhood of these two places, as well as with the swamps, creeks, and river there adjacent. He was fully committed, till such time as the father of the stolen child should be made acquainted with the result of the examination.

In five days Clarke arrived with the negro boy Cesar. The whole town showed the greatest sympathy with the poor man's misfortune: the lawyers offered him their services free of charge, and the second examination of the prisoner took place. Every thing possible was done to induce the latter to confess what had become of the child; but to all questions he opposed an obstinate silence. The negro boy did not recognize him. At last he declared that he knew nothing of the stolen child, and that he had only written the letter in the hope of extorting money from the father. Hardly, however, had this been written down, when he turned to Clarke, with an infernal grin upon his countenance, and said—"You have persecuted and haunted me like a wild-beast, but I will make you yet more wretched than you are able to make me." He then proceeded to inform him of a certain place where he would find his child's clothes.

Clarke immediately set out with a constable to the indicated spot, found the clothes as he had been told he would do, and returned to Natchez. The accused was again put at the bar, and said, after frequently contradicting himself, that the child was still alive, but that if they kept him longer in prison, it would inevitable die of hunger. Nothing could persuade him to say where the boy was, or to give one syllable of further explanation.

Meantime the Quarter Session commenced, and the prisoner was brought up for trial. An immense concourse of persons had assembled to witness the proceedings in this remarkable case. Everything was done to induce the accused to confess, but all in vain. Promises of free pardon, and even the reward, were made to him, if he told where the child was; but the man maintained an obstinate silence. He at last again changed his story, retracted his previous declaration as to his knowledge of where the boy was, said he had found the clothes, which he had recognized by the descriptions that had been every where advertised, and that it was that which had put it into his head to write to the father, in hopes of making his profit by so doing. In the absence of witnesses, although there was strong suspicion, there could be no proof of his having committed the crime in question. In America circumstantial evidence is always received with extreme caution and reluctance; and even the fact of the child's clothes having been found in the place the prisoner had pointed out, was insufficient to induce the jury to find

the latter guilty of the capital charge brought against him. Many of the lawyers, indeed, were of opinion that the man's last story was true, that he had found the clothes, and, being a desperate character, and in needy circumstances, had written the letter for the purposes of extortion. Of this offence only was he found guilty and condemned, as a vagrant and impostor, to a few months imprisonment. By the American laws no severer punishment could be awarded. This one, however, was far from satisfying the public. There was something so infernal in the malignant suer of the culprit in the joy with which he contemplated the sufferings of the bereaved father, and the anxiety of the numerous friends of the latter, that a shudder of horror and disgust had frequently run through the court during the trial. Even the most practiced lawyers had not been free from this emotion, and they declared that they had never witnessed such obduracy.

The inhabitants of Natchez, especially of the upper town, are, generally speaking, a highly intelligent and respectable class of people; but upon this occasion they lost all patience and self-control, and proceeded to an extreme measure, which only the peculiar circumstances of the case could in any degree justify. Without previous notice, they assembled in large numbers upon the 31st of January, with a firm determination to correct for once the mildness of the laws, and to take the punishment of the criminal into their own hands. They opened the prison brought out the culprit, and tying him up, a number of stout negroes proceeded to flog him with whips of bullock's hide.

For a long time the man bore his punishment with extraordinary fortitude, and remained obstinately silent when questions were put to him concerning the stolen child. At last, however, he could bear the pain no longer, and promised a full confession. He named a house on the banks of the Mississippi, some fifty miles from Natchez, the owner of which, he said knew where the child was to be found.

The Sheriff had, of course, not been present at these Lynch-law proceedings, of which he was not aware till they were over, but of which he probably in secret did not entirely disapprove. No sooner, however, was he told of the confession that had been extorted from the prisoner, than he sat off at once in the middle of the night, accompanied by Clarke, for the house that had been pointed out. They arrived there at noon on the following day, and found it inhabited by a respectable family, who had heard of the child having been stolen, but beyond that knew nothing of the matter. The mere suspicion of participation in such a crime, seemed in the highest degree painful and offensive to them. It was soon made evident that the prisoner had invented the story in order to procure a cessation of his punishment the previous night.

The fatigue and constant disappointments that poor Clarke had endured, had worn him out, and at last again stretched him on a bed of sickness. His life was for a long time despaired of, but he finally recovered, and shortly afterwards the term of imprisonment to which the child-stealer (for the public persisted in considering Tully) had been condemned, expired. There was no pretext for detaining him, and he was set at liberty. Clarke was advised to endeavor to obtain from him, by money and good treatment, some information concerning the child. Both father and mother threw themselves at the man's feet imploring him to name his own reward, but to tell them what had become of their son.

"You have flogged and imprisoned me," replied the man, with one of his malicious grins; "you would have hung me if you could; you have done all in your power to make me miserable. It is now my turn."

And he obstinately refused to say a word on the subject of the lost child. He left the town, accompanied by Clarke, who clung to him like his shadow, in the constant hope that he would at last make a revelation. They crossed the Mississippi together, and on arriving behind Concordia, the bereaved father once more besought Tully to tell him what had become of his son, swearing that if he did not do so, he would dog him day and night, but that he should never escape alive out of his hands. The man asked how long he would give him. "Six-and-thirty hours," was the reply. Tully walked on for some time beside Clarke and his wife, apparently deep in thought. On a sudden he sprang upon the backwoodsman, snatched a pistol from his belt, and aimed it at his head. The weapon missed fire. Tully saw that his murderous attempt had failed, and apprehensive doubtless of the punishment that it would entail, he leaped, without a moment's hesitation, into the deepest part of a creek by which they were walking. He sank immediately, the water closed over his head and he did not once reappear. His body was found a couple of hours afterwards, but no trace was ever discovered of the Stolen Child.

*Various particulars of the above incident may be found in the Mississippi newspapers of the year 1825.

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PARIS, FEBRUARY 11, 1845.

TEXAS.—We have seen no article on the subject of the Annexation of Texas to the United States, which can compare with the following from the Journal of Commerce. It contains a brief, but lucid, history of the discovery, the different owners, and transfers of the territory. It likewise presents a candid and impartial view of the advantages and disadvantages of Annexation. We beg of every reader to give the article a thorough and a careful perusal, and then say whether we who urge the Annexation of Texas are attempting to force upon the country a measure of no value.

From the Journal of Commerce.

LOUISIANA AND TEXAS ANNEXATION. Louisiana was first explored by La Salle in 1682, by descending the Mississippi, from the Illinois to New Orleans. This great river de-

scribes its name from the Indians, who called it the *Ne-miss-pi*, or river of Fishes. La Salle in his expedition ordered by the Count Frontinae, Governor of Canada, was accompanied by Father Hennepin, a Jewish Monk of the Franciscan order, who explored the upper Mississippi. So little, prior to this period, (about 180 years subsequent to the discovery of America by Columbus) was known of the valley of the Mississippi that it was supposed the river of this name entered into the Vermillion Sea in California. This stream was descended in 1672, as low as the 33 deg. N. Lat. by some intelligent travellers, whose reports to Frontinae on their return caused him to fit out the expedition of La Salle with 52 men. They named the Illinois river the *Signiella*, and the Mississippi the *Colbert*, which soon passed away. At a later period, 1699, D'Iberville was sent to the colony of Louisiana. He, with Crozat, who succeeded him, attempted to change the Indian names of the rivers, calling the Missouri St. Louis, the Mississippi St. Stephen, and the Illinois the St. Jerome; but these new names soon passed away, leaving the anglicized Indian names in their stead. It was the intention of the French to firmly unite Canada with Louisiana through the links of the great Western rivers. This plan was in the progress of accomplishment by the erection of *Fort Detache*, when in 1763 the war broke out between England and France, involving a frontier war between the English colonies and the Canadian French and Indians. This continued till the fall of Canada, in 1763, by the capture of Quebec.

About this time, other important changes of territory took place. France and Spain formed a family compact and alliance. The former transferred the Colony of Louisiana to Spain. While soon after, Spain dismembered Louisiana, conveying all East of the Mississippi river to England, including East Florida, in exchange for the Island of Cuba, then held by the English. By this transfer the English acquired the country (now States) of the Illinois, Michigan, and parts of Ohio and Indiana. At the close of our war of Independence, the English restored Florida to Spain, while we fell in possession, in right of the British, to all the remainder of ancient Louisiana East of the Mississippi and above Florida.

The Spaniards continued to hold the other extensive portion of Louisiana till the year 1800, when Buonaparte being first Consul, secretly re-annexed it to France by the Treaty of St. Ildefonso, in exchange for Tuscany, which was erected into the Kingdom of Etruria under the Duke of Parma.

The boundary of Louisiana, as reconveyed by France to us, included Texas on the West of the Mississippi, and extended in that direction to the Pacific Ocean, and from the Gulf of Mexico to the head waters of the Mississippi. It extended East as far as the river Perdido, between Mobile and Pensacola, and North to the 33d deg. of latitude. Much dispute subsequently grew up between Spain and the United States relative to the Eastern boundary of Louisiana. We claimed to the Perdido. Spain claimed that Mobile was in Florida. This dispute continued from 1803 to 1813, (Mobile till then remaining in the hands of the Spaniards,) when we took military possession of it, which was during the late war. Spain never disputed our title to Texas, as a part of Louisiana.

Some doubt has been thrown out as to the real Western limits of Louisiana. An old document is said to exist, in the archives of France, which defines the bounds of the *Bishopric of Louisiana*. By this it appears that it was terminated by the Pacific Ocean on the West. Mr. Monroe and Mr. Livingston, with the Marquis de Marbois, when negotiating the Treaty for the cession of Louisiana to the United States, had an old map before them, which has never probably been published. It had probably marked on it the general outline of the real extent of our purchase, reaching, it is presumed, to the Pacific Ocean. In the re-annexation of this extensive province to France, Spain agreed to re-convey the entire province, subject to the same boundaries which defined it at the time (30 or 40 years before) when she received it from France.

Buonaparte had not been long in his possession, before it became apparent, that, without a naval force sufficient to cope with England he could not save it from the seizure of England at the first rupture.

The hollow and brief peace, which followed the treaty of Amiens, was then in existence, at the conclusion of a long and bloody war between France and England. The former had gained glory and conquest under the First Consul on land; while the latter had, by successive brilliant victories on the ocean, arrogantly claimed to be 'Mistress of the Seas.'

Both parties were presuming and arrogant. England complained of the Amiens Treaty, as too submissive to France; and above all, of the secret transfer of Louisiana from Spain to France. She imperiously urged it as a law of nations, that, among sovereign powers, no changes of sovereignty can, or ought to take place, without the consultation of all; and hence, England should have been consulted with regard to Spain's re-occupation of Louisiana. Buonaparte complained, on the other hand, of England's arrogant assumption to be the Mistress of the Seas. God and Nature wisely decreed and intended the navigation of the ocean to be free to vessels of all the world, as was the air for the passage of birds. He also complained of England's intermeddling with the Island of St. Domingo, and directly and indirectly causing its destruction, for the purpose of giving greater value to her own possessions in the West Indies. He condemned the claims of England to interfere with other powers in the acquisition of territory, while she, without scruple or consultation, seized upon immense tracts of country in the East Indies, and on possessions in other parts of the world.

The result of these mutual discontents and revilings, was, that both parties commenced active measures for the renewal of hostilities. The year 1803 had arrived. Troubles grew up with New Orleans with the Spanish authorities, who, as soon as they heard of the re-annexation of Louisiana, adopted more strict and rigorous measures of commercial exactions with the Western people of the United States. The Western people became discontented, and were found in their complaints, in some instances manifesting open dissatisfaction for the Government at Washington.

Citizen Genet, with other emissaries of foreign Governments, had tampered with their feelings, with a view of influencing them to a separation from the Atlantic States, and joining with the power in possession of Louisiana and the mouth of Mississippi, or to aid in forming a distant Western Republic. Mr. Jefferson was accused of cowardice.

A great crisis had arrived. Never were affairs more critical. England was on the eve of renewing war with France, the first result of which would have been the wresting of Louisiana from France by England, and her holding it forever. She at that moment had a large fleet in the Gulf of Mexico, comprising several ships of the line, which would have been able to capture Louisiana with the utmost ease. Buonaparte saw the danger—so did Mr. Jefferson. This great man at once discovered that there was only one course, to save Louisiana from the grasp of England, and that was, to purchase it as speedily as possible from France. Mr. Livingston, our minister, was then at Paris, but had no plenary power on the subject. Mr. Monroe was sent with all possible despatch as minister Extraordinary, with full powers to treat for Louisiana. Before he had time to arrive in France, Buonaparte pressed Marbois, his minister to open negotiations with Mr. Livingston, fearing that even then, England might be in possession of Louisiana, before making an open declaration of war; for, said he, 'that is their usual plan of acting.'

He was in want of funds to carry on the war, and foreseeing the utter impossibility of his defending Louisiana against the English, who held the undisputed command of the Gulf, and indeed of nearly every sea, he determined, rather than to have it fall into their hands, to transfer it to the United States. For, said he, 'if I make a sacrifice in selling it to the Americans, it will in their hands prove a dear bargain to the English, for it will prevent their control on the North American Continent, and ultimately raise up a naval power which may successfully control their assumption of supremacy on the Ocean,' or words to that effect. *See Marbois' History of Louisiana.* On Mr. Monroe's arrival negotiations were immediately opened, but for obvious reasons, under circumstances of the most profound secrecy. Our Government not supposing the whole province, including Texas, could be bought, had given our ministers instructions to purchase at least New Orleans, and a considerable portion on the west bank of the Mississippi. But Buonaparte refused to sell a part, and insisted on selling the whole, or none. The whole was accordingly purchased for 80 millions of francs, about 15 millions of dollars; 60 millions of francs to be paid in a six per cent stock, and 20 millions paid to our citizens on account of French expatriations. Thus by the energy and tact of Mr. Jefferson, brought to bear upon the first Consul at a favorable moment, Louisiana was saved from the possession of the English.

I have often thought on the consequences, which would have resulted to our confederacy had the English then acquired Louisiana. In such a case they would have divided the valley of the Mississippi with us. They would have owned all the territory from the Gulf of Mexico, including Texas, on the West bank of the Mississippi, to the Pacific Ocean, and the head waters of the Mississippi—a country two thirds to three fourths larger than all the United States East of the Mississippi! Under this seizure they would have come into the possession of Texas, Louisiana proper, Arkansas, Missouri and Iowa, with all the country West! This conquest, had they known it, would have been worth a dozen Canadas to them. This is not all. Controlling as they would have done, the outlet to western trade, it would have been easy for them to draw to their interest Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, and indeed most of the country, then thinly peopled, bordering the tributaries of that great river.

The annexation of Louisiana was then opposed, as that of Texas is now. Suppose the opponents, on the ground of slavery, had defeated the acquisition of Louisiana, by which England would have come into its possession. What an irreparable evil would they have inflicted on this country.

To show the folly of siding with the designs of England on that occasion, it is only necessary to ask the question: Which would have been the wisest and most patriotic policy; to admit Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri, with slavery, or to exclude them on that ground, and let those vast and valuable tracts of country fall into the hands of the British?

Those who are opposing Texas annexation, must bring themselves to answer a similar question now.

What have been the results, to us, of the acquisition of Louisiana? New Orleans in 1803, only had a population of some 5000 inhabitants. Its exports amounted to about four millions of dollars. It now has over 100,000 inhabitants, and exports from 75 to 100 millions of dollars of produce. St. Louis, from being a missionary hamlet of the Catholic Church, has now a population of 35,000 inhabitants. We have acquired three new States, part of Alabama and Mississippi, with Iowa, now seeking admission into the Union. We have acquired rich mines of coal, iron and lead. Cincinnati and Pittsburgh have been greatly advanced by manufacturing for the consumption of Louisiana, and the communities carved out of her territory.

The admission of Texas should be no more a sectional question, than was that of Louisiana. It is strictly and essentially a national question, and one in which the free States are as much interested as any other portion of the Union.

If we estimate the crop of cotton in the United States at 2,000,000 bales, and assume a vessel's cargo to be 2000 bales, to transport the whole will require 1000 ships, which assigning 15 persons to each, will give employment to 15,000 seamen. When the transportation of rice (value two millions), tobacco, (about six millions), with hemp, &c., are taken into the account, we may safely assume that double the number of ships and men are required to carry the whole, or 3000 ships and 30,000 seamen. Now, Texas is no doubt capable of producing 1,500,000 bales of cotton; the export of which will require 750 ships, and about 12,000 seamen.

By the census of 1840, it appears that the annual production of manufactures in the United States amounts to 370 millions of dollars. It is

probable that 200 millions of this amount is produced in the free States, of which at least 50 millions is annually bought and consumed in the slave states. Louisiana (proper) alone, according to an estimate I made with much care, when in that State, employed about two millions of dollars worth of machinery, supplied mainly from Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and New England, with other free states. It is not too much to suppose, that when the resources of Texas are once developed, she will consume probably 50 millions of manufactured goods; thus swelling the supplies of manufactured articles made in free states and sent South, to 100 millions of dollars, instead of 50, as at present. What do the enemies of annexation offer to the confederacy in exchange for the immense losses that will be sustained by non-annexation?

Loss in territory—in national strength and security—in trade and commerce—in the spread of free institutions, as opposed to the grasping power of monarchy. Is the mere dread of the immigration of a few negroes from the middle Slave States, (leaving them free States in return,) to balance all these national losses and misfortunes?

We shall aim to show in a few words, that the people of the free States entertain an unreasonable dread of the extension of slavery, and the augmentation of political power in the slave states. They in reality have nothing to fear on this score, with Texas in, or out of the confederacy.

Whenever this country has a population of 100 millions of whites, there will be an end to all negro slavery. When white labor becomes sufficiently abundant to be forced to seek that now performed by the blacks, there will be an end of all slavery. When they are once made free and thrown upon their own resources in contact with the whites, they will from that moment begin to diminish in numbers, until the whole race will gradually disappear, as the Indians have done, before the superior intellect and power of the whites. The doom of extermination to the negro race on this continent is inevitable, by the operation of laws beyond the control and wisdom of man. And this too, without reference to their state of freedom or slavery. Any sudden change of their condition will only hasten the period of their final extermination. I speak of the fact as the result of inexorable causes; not that humanity can any more desire this final destiny, than it has power to prevent it.

The abrogation of the slave trade sealed the extermination of all black slavery, and of the blacks themselves, on this continent.

Mr. Darby has shown that according to the ratio of increase of population in the United States hitherto, by the year 1900 our population will amount to 100,000,000.

Now the census of 1790 showed a slave population of 647,847. That of 1840, a slave population of only 2,457,000, giving an increase of only about 1,830,000 for a period of 50 years. At the same ratio—in the next fifty-five years, or in 1900, it will not probably exceed 8 or 10 millions; say the latter, which taken from the 100,000,000, will leave 88 or 90 millions of whites, and 10 to 12 millions of blacks, inclusive of Texas.

Whoever fires till A. D. 1900 or 1910 at farthest, (and many are now born who will,) will see this result, viz: a population in the United States of 100,000,000 of whites, and only 12 to 13 millions of blacks. That period stands only 65 to 70 years in advance of us, when slavery will have expired by the laws of population and subsistence.

Which is best, let the evil work its own quiet and peaceful cure in 60 or 70 years,—or push on the destructive projects of immediate emancipation, which at best can only end in disunion, civil war, national disgrace and ruin.

By far the most groundless fear of the free states, is that of being outweighed in the political council of the country by the slave states.

It is immaterial, which side of the Sabine the slaves are found, their natural increase can only be the same. If Texas remains independent, the fact will neither abolish slavery there or here—nor prevent the natural increase there or here—while we should lose every thing without gaining anything—nationally, or even sectionally.

The grain growing free States of the West and North West, that will soon extend to the Pacific Ocean, will far outstrip all Texas and the slave States combined, both in number and in population. We have now 26 Senators from free States and 24 from slave states.* Iowa and Wisconsin will soon extend the former to 30, with 24 from slave states. In the popular branch, the preponderance is much greater in favor of the free states, and must continue to advance; as the free portion of the country contains a rich and healthy soil receiving an immense number of immigrants every year, from Europe.

Texas or no Texas, this preponderance will go on increasing. Indeed, the admission of Texas will only add to the political power of the free states, because its settlement will make as many present slaves states free, as will be new States formed from it.

The question, strip of party and sectional views, is narrowed down to that of an American and English question. England desires a market for goods, and a supply of cotton, from a source beyond the U. States.

When in Liverpool, I asked an experienced merchant what he thought of the success of the British in their attempt to grow cotton, in India in competition with the United States? He replied, "that he believed the attempt would prove a failure, (as it has since done); that the United States has possession of the cotton markets of Europe, and would continue to hold them."

This was said before the Texas question came up. We have possession of the cotton markets of Europe, which yields to us, in exchange for cotton values in money and goods to the amount of about 60,000,000 of dollars per annum. These markets we can continue to hold in spite of all competition if we annex Texas, with all the vast commerce and navigation growing out of its export transportation and return cargoes. If we lose Texas we hazard the loss of the European markets for cotton, and the partial destruction of our manufacturing, commercial and navigation interest!

Who can say that annexation is not a national question, or that the free States, so far from having any thing to fear from it, have not every reason that national interest, honor, safety and patriotism can suggest, to wish for its immediate consummation.

MANHATTAN,

New York, Jan. 21th, 1845.

*Leaving Delaware out of the account, as being neither one thing nor the other.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

Feb. 1st.—In the Senate, motion was made to take up the Resolves approving the Joint Resolutions passed by the House of Representatives at Washington. The Senate refused to take them up.

House.—Petitions were presented and referred praying for alteration of the License Law. A Bill was introduced giving the City of Portland the right to assess a tax of \$1,000 to make a reconnaissance of the Portland and Montreal Railroad. It was recommended to the Committee with instructions to report Order of Notice.

Mr. Perkins called up the Resolves introduced yesterday, by Mr. Berry, approving the Joint Resolutions in relation to Annexation which recently passed one branch of Congress. A long debate ensued. Various motions were made,—to adjourn,—to lay on the table,—but they were all refused. After much time had been spent the yeas and nays were called for, but a quorum not being present the House adjourned without taking any question.

Feb. 3d.—Senate. Business unimportant. House.—The Clerk announced the absence of the Speaker, when Elbridge Gerry, Esq., of Waterford, was chosen Speaker, pro tem.—80 votes were thrown, Mr. Gerry had 58. The Resolves approving the Joint Resolutions of Congress in relation to Annexation were taken up. Mr. Paine made a motion to amend, by striking out "approve," and inserting "disapprove." This amendment was rejected. The Resolves were then indefinitely postponed, 85 to 8.

Feb. 4th.—In the Senate, the Report of Mr. Madigan, Superintendent of Schools in the Madawaska Settlements, was received from the Governor, and 350 copies ordered to be printed. An order was introduced authorizing the Committee on Valuation to employ two more Clerks, at an expense not exceeding \$2 per day.

House.—The Bill repealing the bounty on Bears came up, and passed to be engrossed. Mr. Chadwick presented the following order:

Ordered, That the Judiciary Committee inquire into the expediency of passing a permanent law in relation to the assessment and collection of taxes, instead of making an annual assessment as heretofore.

Feb. 5.—In the Senate, the Bill to establish the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad was taken up. Motion was made to strike out that portion of the Bill which forbids any alteration of the Charter by any future Legislature. After some debate, the Senate adjourned without taking any question.

House.—Bill permitting the city of Portland to assess a tax to defray the expense of a Rail Road Survey, passed to be engrossed. Bill to form a new town, partly of Prospect and partly of Belfast, was laid on the table.

Feb. 6.—Senate. Bill incorporating the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad was taken up. The amendment proposed yesterday was rejected, 23 to 1. So the Charter cannot be altered hereafter by any Legislature. Another amendment was proposed, but was laid on the table.

House.—The Bill repealing the bounty on Bears came from the Senate indefinitely postponed. The House non-concurred the Senate insisted on repeal, 48, to 46. Bill to form a new town, by the name of Searsport, from parts of Belfast and Prospect, passed to be engrossed.

Feb. 7.—In the Senate, the Rail Road Bill came up, and after several unimportant amendments had been made, the Bill passed to be engrossed. Mr. Dunn introduced the following order:—

Ordered, That the Committee on the Judiciary be directed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law that all criminal costs be paid by the several counties where such costs accrue.

House.—Resolve to purchase 500 copies of Greenleaf's Map of Maine came up, and after debate, was laid on the table. An order was introduced to prevent the reception of private petitions after the 24th inst. It was refused a passage. The St. Lawrence and Atlantic Rail Road Bill came up, was read twice and tomorrow assigned.

CONGRESS.

The occupation of Oregon is now the engrossing question in the House of Representatives. The Bill introduced for the Military occupation of that Territory is now undergoing amendment and discussion. Mr. Adams made a speech, in which he fully admitted our claim to the country West of the Rocky Mountains. He introduced an amendment which required that Great Britain should be notified of our intention to take possession, which was agreed to 99 to 97. Mr. A. said that he wished this Government to be geographically, politically, and more than that, morally right, on this question; and this position being assumed, he was

ready, if evil followed, to exclaim "come on, McDuff."

This remark of Mr. Adams has had a wonderful effect in reviving the drooping patriotism of the Whig party. They have all at once become bold in maintaining our title to this territory, and new energy has been given to their sinking spirits, and what is very strange, they are now vying with the Democrats to see which shall go farthest in efforts to recover what has heretofore been put in jeopardy by unwitting Diplomacy. The Adams bugle is yet able to give tone and enthusiasm to the Whig party. If war should ensue from the prosecution of our claim to this territory, we have every reason, now, to believe that all parties will unite in calling it just and necessary.

Opinion of the South on Abolitionism.—The Richmond Enquirer, a staunch Republican paper, of which the talented and veteran Ritchie is Editor, has the following judicious and sensible remarks in relation to the efforts of Abolitionists and others of the North, to interfere with the Institution of Slavery. These sentiments flow from the heart, and we wish they might reach the heart. They deserve, as they ought to receive, the calm and dispassionate consideration of every true patriot—of every well disposed philanthropist. If the Southern States pass laws which are unconstitutional, and operate to the injury of the North, they should be referred to the Supreme Court of the United States for adjudication, and the decision of that Court should be submitted to by all parties. But this eternal "hue and cry" about slavery,—this everlasting song of Southern tyranny, gotten up and perpetuated by such characters as Garrison, Torrey, and a host of minor worthies, exciting sectional jealousies, arraying one State against another, engendering morbid and false benevolence, enlisting all the fanaticism and monomania of the country, to the manifest injury of both Church and State, is a condition of things which ought not to be tolerated. Every good man, every patriot, should repudiate such men and measures, and if they act at all in the matter, their action should be so conducted as to promote the general welfare. Let him who reads the following remarks from a Southern man place himself in the same situation, and then judge whether this would not be the language of a Christian, the sentiments of a patriot, and the reflection of a feeling heart. Here is the extract:—

Would to Heaven! that the non-slaveholding States, (the free States, as they please to call themselves,) would let us alone upon this subject.—Leave Nature to itself. Let us, who understand the evil, apply the best remedy of which the case is susceptible. It would be best for ourselves—best for the slaves—best for the accomplishment of the very object which the Abolitionists profess to have in view. We do not meddle with their civil institutions—why should they interfere with us? Why tamper with what does not belong to them? Our glorious country has enjoyed, and would continue to enjoy for an indefinite period, a prosperity unknown to any ancient or modern nations. All the movements of the ultra abolitionists and their aiders and abettors, stir up and excite our feelings. They stir up our passions, which we dislike. They infuse a jealous and angry temper into our public councils. They threaten the Union—and if dissolution should ever come, they will bring it about. There is perhaps no rock on which the vessel is more liable to be shipwrecked, than this one—and yet they will take no counsel; they will not listen to our remonstrances or our entreaties. They are rushing on in all the fury of fanaticism, to strike at our peace—and they will listen to no warning voice, which would beseech them to forbear. Even the grave Legislature of Massachusetts is hurried on by the Abolitionists to measures which are only calculated to endanger our peace, and to inflame our passions. Cassandra warns them in vain. We pray to heaven, that her predictions may not be fulfilled—and that Troy may yet defy all her enemies.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT

And the opinion of the Press in relation to the course of our Representatives in Congress who voted against Annexation.

Without giving any opinion of our own about this matter, farther than was expressed last week, we refer to the following extracts from different Democratic papers in this State:—

[From the Bangor Democrat.]
THE MAINE REPRESENTATIVES.—With the single exception of Mr. Cary, all voted against the Resolution for annexing Texas to the United States. The negative vote of the four democratic members we do not understand and therefore cannot explain or justify it.

[From the Eastern Argus.]
In regard to Texas, we must be permitted to say, that it pains us to see the true friends of annexation, leaving the substance to content about the shadow. Almost any of the propositions for annexation, that have been before Congress, are better than none; and if it fails through the quarrels of its real, or professed friends, about comparatively unimportant details, a heavy responsibility will rest somewhere.

[From the Belfast Journal.]
It thus appears that a majority of the mem-

bers from the north only are opposed to the measure. Of the Northern States, however, Connecticut and New Jersey (Federal States) go for annexation. Every member from Maine except Hon. Shepard Cary, voted against Annexation! And yet scarcely a State in the Union has given more unequivocal proofs of its desire that Texas should be annexed to this Union. Thus are constitutions sometimes represented.

[From the Portland American.]
The course adopted by the four Democratic representatives from Maine has taken us by surprise. We did not for a moment anticipate action on their part so boldly and openly defiant of the clearly expressed will of the Democracy, and especially of their more immediate constituents. But the deed is done, and they must meet the consequences.

We would add to this expression of public opinion the following Resolution passed by a public meeting of the citizens of Brunswick. This Resolution was reported by a Committee chosen for the purpose, and composed of Gen. A. B. Thompson, S. R. Thurston, and John Crawford. The proceedings of the meeting are signed by Ephraim Brown, Chairman, and M. T. Comb, Secretary. The Resolution is as follows:—

[From the Maine (Bath) Inquirer.]
Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the immediate annexation of Texas would be beneficial to the United States, and that every effort of the Democratic party should be exerted to effect that object; and the Joint Resolution of the House of Representatives of Congress, which passed said House on the 1st inst., in favor of the annexation of Texas, meets our cordial approbation.

Finz.—We learn that the Baptist Meeting House at Craigie's Mills, Oxford, was consumed by fire one day last week.

MARRIED.

In Bath, John Donnell to Mary Marriott.
Thomas J. Tucker to Sarah E. White of Georgetown.
In Farmington, Frederick Gage to Sarah J. Holbrook, both of Strong.

DIED.

In Augusta, on Tuesday last, Mr. Jacob Stannwood aged 59 years.
In Washington, D. C., 9th inst., George Washington Wilson, for several years a clerk in the General Land Office of the United States.

Notice of Foreclosure.

WHEREAS DANIEL C. WATSON, of Skowhegan, in the County of Somerset, and State of Maine, merchant, on the 14th day of July, A. D. 1837, conveyed by deed to mortgage of that date, of John Agry Esq. Treasurer of the Trustees of Hallowell Academy, of all Successors in said office, two undivided fifth parts of the Township of Hallowell, in the fifth range of Townships in the County of Oxford, which was granted to said Trustees by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which was conveyed to said Watson and John M. Pollard, on the 20th of June 1835, by said Agry Esq. for and in behalf of said Trustees, which said deed includes, also one undivided third part of the following described sections and parts of sections of land situated in the south half of said Township No. Five, fifth range, and in that part of said Township granted by said Commonwealth to the Trustees of the Farmington Academy, to-wit: Section one, four, five, six, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fifteen, eighteen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six, and thirty, northwest, northeast, and southeast quarter of section three, northwest and northeast quarters of section seven, northwest and southeast quarters of section eight—northwest, southwest, northeast and southeast quarters of section sixteen—northwest and southeast quarters of section seventeen—northwest and southeast quarters of section nineteen—southwest quarter of section twenty-seven—southeast quarter of section twenty-eight—north fractional half section twenty-nine.

The subscriber, the successor of said Agry, in the said office of Treasurer, by order of said Trustees, hereby gives notice, that the condition of the said mortgage is broken, by reason thereof, he, for and in behalf of said Trustees, claims a foreclosure thereof.

ANDREW MASTERS, Treasurer of Hallowell Academy.
Hallowell Jan. 17, 1845.

Administrator's Sale.

WILL be sold at public Auction, by virtue of License from the Hon. Lyndon Rawson, Judge of Probate, for the County of Oxford, at the dwelling house of the subscriber in Bethel, in said County of Oxford, on the first Saturday of April next, at one of the clock in the afternoon, the reversion of the Widow's Dower in all the real estate of which Benjamin Russell, late of Bethel, deceased, died seised and possessed, situated in said Bethel.

A more particular description, and terms of made known at the time and place of sale.

JAMES WALKER, Administrator.
Bethel, Jan. 23, 1845.

At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the 1st Tuesday of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

Cyrus Cole, Executor of the last will and testament of William Cole, late of Buckfield in said County, deceased, having presented his third account of his administration of the estate of said deceased.

It was Ordered, That the said Executor give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

THE subscriber hereby gives public notice to all concerned, that he has been duly appointed and taken upon himself the trust of Administrator of the estate of

SAMUEL A. BRADLEY,
late of Fryeburg in the County of Oxford, deceased, by giving bond as the law directs.—He therefore requests all persons who are indebted to the said deceased's estate, to make immediate payment; and those who have any demands thereon, to exhibit the same to

SAMUEL BRADLEY,
Hallowell January 21, 1845.

THE subscriber hereby gives public notice to all concerned, that he has been duly appointed and taken upon himself the trust of Administrator of the estate of

CHARLES RACKLEFF,
late of Sweden in the County of Oxford, deceased, by giving bond as the law directs.—He therefore requests all persons who are indebted to the said deceased's estate, to make immediate payment; and those who have any demands thereon, to exhibit the same to

MARY RACKLEFF,
Fryeburg January 21, 1845.

At a Court of Probate held at Fryeburg within and for the County of Oxford, on the 21st day of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

On the Petition of James French, Jr. of Porterville, in said County, representing that John French, late of said County, deceased, has intermarried with said French before settling her final account of administration of said estate, and praying that she may be appointed to close the administration of said estate.

It was Ordered, That the said Petitioner give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be granted.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

THE subscriber hereby gives public notice to all concerned, that he has been duly appointed and taken upon himself the trust of Administrator of the estate of

THOMAS MCCOLLISTER, Jr.
late of Canton, in the County of Oxford, deceased, by giving bond as the law directs.—He therefore requests all persons who are indebted to the said deceased's estate, to make immediate payment; and those who have any demands thereon, to exhibit the same to

DEBORAH MCCOLLISTER,
Canton, Jan. 7, 1845.

At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the 1st Tuesday of January, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

James Perry, late of said County, deceased, having presented his first account of his administration of the estate of said deceased, and also a petition of the widow of said deceased, praying for an allowance out of the personal estate of said deceased.

It was Ordered, That the said Administrator give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the 1st Tuesday of January, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

Thomas Hill, Administrator of the estate of Daniel Stowell, late of Paris aforesaid, deceased, having presented his first account of his administration of the estate of said deceased, and also a petition of the widow of said deceased, praying for an allowance out of the personal estate of said deceased.

It was Ordered, That the said Administrator give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the 1st Tuesday of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

Nancy Webster, named Executrix in a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of Peter Webster late of Andover in said County, deceased having presented the same for Probate.

It was Ordered, That the said Nancy Webster give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the said instrument should not be proved, approved, allowed as the last will and testament of said deceased.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the 1st Tuesday of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

Cyrus Thompson, Jr. named Executor in a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of William Carter late of Canton in said County, deceased, having presented the same for Probate.

It was Ordered, That the said Cyrus Thompson give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the said instrument should not be proved, approved, allowed as the last will and testament of said deceased.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Watford, within and for the County of Oxford on the 20th day of January, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

Benjamin Hunt, Administrator of the Estate of Sampson Hunt late of Watford in said County, deceased, having presented his first account of his administration of the estate of said deceased.

It was Ordered, That the said Administrator give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Watford, on Monday the fourth day of August next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Watford, within and for the County of Oxford on the 20th day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

Asa Foster, named Executor in a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of William Carter late of Canton in said County, deceased, having presented the same for Probate.

It was Ordered, That the said Asa Foster give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Watford, on Monday the fourth day of August next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Fryeburg within and for the County of Oxford, on the 21st day of January, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

John Stanley, Administrator of the estate of Joseph Stanley late of Porterville in said County, deceased, having presented his second account of his administration of the estate of said deceased.

It was Ordered, That the said Administrator give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Watford, within and for the County of Oxford on the 20th day of January, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

On the petition of the Widow of John Wilkins late of said Watford, deceased, praying for an allowance out of the personal estate of said deceased.

It was Ordered, That the said Petitioner give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be granted.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

THE subscriber hereby gives public notice to all concerned, that he has been duly appointed and taken upon himself the trust of Administrator of the estate of

ISSAAC WALKER,
late of Fryeburg in the County of Oxford, deceased, by giving bond as the law directs.—He therefore requests all persons who are indebted to the said deceased's estate, to make immediate payment; and those who have any demands thereon, to exhibit the same to

JAMES HOBBS,
Fryeburg January 21, 1845.

At a Court of Probate held at Fryeburg within and for the County of Oxford, on the 21st day of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

On the Petition of David Hammons, Administrator of the Estate of Daniel H. Wiley and John Field, both late of Fryeburg in said County, deceased, praying for an allowance to be paid out of the real estate of said Wiley as may be necessary to raise the sum of two hundred dollars, and so much of the real estate of said Field as may be necessary to raise the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, for the payment of debts and incidental charges.

It was Ordered, That the said Administrator give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be granted.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the 1st Tuesday of January, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

John Harris, Administrator of the Estate of William A. Whitcomb, late of Bethel in said County, deceased, having presented his private account against said deceased.

It was Ordered, That the said Administrator give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the 1st Tuesday of January, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

John S. Perry, Administrator of the Estate of Leonard Brown, late of Oxford in said County, deceased, having presented his first account of his administration of the estate of said deceased, and also a petition of the widow of said deceased, praying for an allowance out of the personal Estate of said deceased.

It was Ordered, That the said named Administrator give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
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At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the 1st Tuesday of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

John Bartlett, Guardian of the Estate of Stephen Stevens, late of Paris in said County, deceased, having presented his first account of his administration of the estate of said deceased, and also a petition of the widow of said deceased, praying for an allowance out of the personal estate of said deceased.

It was Ordered, That the said Administrator give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
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At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the 1st Tuesday of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

Levi Randall, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen Putnam, late of Paris in said County, deceased, having presented his first account of his administration of the estate of said deceased, and also a petition of the widow of said deceased, praying for an allowance out of the personal estate of said deceased.

It was Ordered, That the said Administrator give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
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At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the 1st Tuesday of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

Levi Randall, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen Putnam, late of Paris in said County, deceased, having presented his first account of his administration of the estate of said deceased, and also a petition of the widow of said deceased, praying for an allowance out of the personal estate of said deceased.

It was Ordered, That the said Administrator give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
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At a Court of Probate held at Fryeburg within and for the County of Oxford, on the 21st day of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

On the Petition of David Hammons, Administrator of the Estate of Daniel H. Wiley and John Field, both late of Fryeburg in said County, deceased, praying for an allowance to be paid out of the real estate of said Wiley as may be necessary to raise the sum of two hundred dollars, and so much of the real estate of said Field as may be necessary to raise the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, for the payment of debts and incidental charges.

It was Ordered, That the said Administrator give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be granted.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Watford, within and for the County of Oxford on the 20th day of January, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

Benjamin Hunt, Administrator of the Estate of Sampson Hunt late of Watford in said County, deceased, having presented his first account of his administration of the estate of said deceased.

It was Ordered, That the said Administrator give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Watford, on Monday the fourth day of August next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Watford, within and for the County of Oxford on the 20th day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

Asa Foster, named Executor in a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of William Carter late of Canton in said County, deceased, having presented the same for Probate.

It was Ordered, That the said Asa Foster give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Watford, on Monday the fourth day of August next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be allowed.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
Copy—Attest: GEO. F. EMERY, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Fryeburg within and for the County of Oxford, on the 21st day of January, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five.

On the going petition, it was Ordered, that the said Petitioner give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy thereof and of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at said Paris on the first Tuesday of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have why the same should not be granted.

GEO. F. EMERY, Register.
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THE subscriber hereby gives public notice to all concerned, that he has been duly appointed and taken upon himself the trust of Administrator of the estate of

